A REVIEW OF THE Affairs of *FRANCE*:

With Obſervations on TRANSACTIONS at Home.

Tueſday, July 17. 1705.

I Confeſs, 'tis ſtrange, that a Bill of ſo vaſt Conſequences, ſo Prodigious in its Real and Secret Extent, as well as in its pretended Extent, ſhould have its Riſe in ſuch Mean, Deſpicable Cauſes and Perſons.

But as the greateſt Rivers have their Beginnings in the moſt Contemptible Brooks, and almoſt Imperceptible Springs, and grow great not from any thing Conſiderable in their firſt Source, but by the Addition of other Streams, which falling in from the Adjacent Countries, furniſh their reſpective Quota's to the Current.

So the Devil making uſe of theſe two moſt Contemptible Agents to uſher in this Brat of Perſecution into the World, it was his next Care to bring in Suitable Aſſiſtants from the Neighbouring Country to Nurſe and Cheriſh this Embryo, and lick it into Shape.

It appeared at firſt in a Different Poſture, and the Pamphlet mentioned before, was a *Sketch* of the Deſign.

And therefore to do Juſtice to theſe mighty Originals of Miſchief, I muſt allow it is very poſſible they might not have all the Succeſs of their firſt Deſign in View, *and the Emptineſs of their Heads beſpeaks this Charity*; they might not, perhaps, ſee a Proſpect of bringing it into Parliament, much leſs of ſeeing it break with ſuch a force, as to prevail upon a Majority of the Commons, and paſs three Seſſions, through that Wiſe Aſſembly, with ſuch a great Majority, and with ſo high a Hand, as we have ſeen it done.

But as I have obſerv'd its Inviſible Father having ſent this Child of Hell into the World, it was his Buſineſs to find out Inſtruments to carry it on.

And the Subtilty of the Old Gentleman is exceeding Manifeſt in the Introduction of this Thought into the World.

He firſt committed it to the *Jacobite* Underſtanding, as a People who could not but approve it, and propagate it; for that as they muſt be certain it would Embroil and Divide the Nation, ſet us together by the Ears, and break all manner of Charity, and good Agreement among the People; ſo it fitted their Abdicated, almoſt forgotten

Cauſe to a Tittle: Nothing but ſuch Diviſions and Bones of Contention among us, being able to give them any Relief, or Revive the Hopes of their Sinking Party.

It was next the abſolutely neceſſary Buſineſs to find out Seconds to this Party.

And as this was a hard matter to do, becauſe Differing Intereſts made it Difficult, and the Church of *England*'s Intereſt, compar'd with the *Jacobite* Intereſt, were like two Poles Diametrically Oppoſite, and Naturally Inconſiſtent———It was then Conſulted, Whether there might not be found out among the Church of *England*'s Fools, ſome that might be manag'd to Eſpouſe their own Deſtruction, and yet have their Underſtandings ſo Hoodwink'd, as not to perceive it: And then as *David*, when he ſet up his Standard at the Cave of *Adullam*, made up his *Band of Worthies*, among the Bankrupts and Malecontents, 1 *Sam.* 22. 2. So the Outed Stateſmen, the Slighted Party-men, the Hot, the Heady, the Weak, and the Ignorant, were found the proper Dupes and Tools of this Project, and Hell began to ſee ſome Proſpect of Succeſs.

As all things, they ſay, have two Faces, and two Handles, ſo it was neceſſary this thing ſhould Borrow a Suit of Clothes to ſhape it ſelf with; for its Native Deformity was ſuch, and plainly pointed out its Infernal Deſcent; in ſhort, the Brat was ſo like the Father, that it was neceſſary it ſhould be Diſguiſed, leſt its Similitude to the Race of Darkneſs, ſhould make all Mankind ſtart at its Appearance, and ſhun it as an Apparition.

The Devil himſelf could not have found it a more ſuited Covering, than that of Religion; the Eternal Cloak of a Hypocrite, the Conſtant Diſguiſe of Murther and Treaſon, the beſt Gloſs to Varniſh over Conceal'd Crimes, the ſhining Surface of Deluding Knaves, with which they Gild Poiſon, Sanctifie all the Frauds and Cheats of Life, and make the Devil turn *Proteus*, and appear in moſt Taking Forms his Occaſions require.

Immortal Innocence! How art thou Invaded in the World? How made a Snare to Draw in the Weak, Delude the Zealous, and ſimply Devout People? How often do'ſt thou Conceal Devils under the Sacred Veſtment of thy Altar, and ſerve for a Beautiful Viſor to all ſorts of Treaſon and Villany; and by thy being above all things the beſt Principle, art by that very Quality made Capable of being the moſt Specious Pretence?

Abominable Artifice! That when Murther, Treaſon, Breach of Laws, Deſtruction of Nations, and all manner of Villanies are, Mankind ſhould be arriv'd to ſuch a Perfection of Hypocriſie, and ſuch Aſſurance in their Attempt, as not only to Dare to Invade God himſelf, and Seize upon the Sacred Subſtance for the Clandeſtine Purpoſe of Counterfeit and Deceit.

But that they ſhould be at the ſame time able ſo to Model Vice, ſo by their Helliſh Contrivance to form and mould the Miſchiefs and Miſeries Deſign'd for their Fellow Creatures; that the Mask of Religion ſhould bear any Analogy, and be in any manner capable of fitting the Deſign, Dreſſing up the *Devil* ſo like the *Angel of Light*, that they cannot eaſily be known aſunder?

Having thus agreed, that Religion ſhould be the Covering of this Plot, and with exceeding Art Diſguiſing themſelves as Devotees, Patrons of the Church, and Zealous Aſſerters of her Cauſe, they ſoon got a Party among thoſe hinted at before.

And now being Aſſembled, and the Standard Erected, the Bloody Flag held out, they want a *Motto*; but he that had gone thus far, was not Fool enough to fail them now ———And gave them an Excellent Aphoriſm, an Invention ſo exactly ſuiting the Deſign, that it was Impoſſible to mend it ———The Words are Conciſe and Short, like their Succeſs, deep as their Original, and of Double Meaning, like the Party.

This Mighty Repreſentation, is contain'd in theſe ſhort Words, THE CHURCH IS IN DANGER.

It remains a Doubt, and the Diſpute of it may happen to take us up ſome time in theſe Papers, which Way theſe Words are to be taken; their Literal Senſe may be without much Difficulty allow'd, and the Matter of Fact ſhall not be Diſputed here, but reſerved for its proper place.

Suppoſe

Suppoſe then the Motto true; *for indeed Outſides muſt be ſo always*, and grant in general, *That the Church is in Danger*, as in the Memorial is expreſt: It remains to determine who this Danger is to proceed from; and tho' this is reſerv'd for its proper head, and ſome ſuitable Pains may be taken about it; yet I cannot, in the mean time, but think 'tis neceſſary, juſt to hold out this Piece of Novelty to the World, to ſpread it in the Sun, and ſee how it will look.

That a Party of Men, who profeſs their Zeal for a Popiſh Succeſſor, ſhould cry out of the *Danger of the Church*, from a Proteſtant Queen.

That a Church of *England* Miniſter, ſhould be able on one hand to preach up to the People the *Danger of the Church*, from a Miniſtry of Original Conſtant Conformers to her Communion: And on the other hand tell us, he can never think of the 30th of *January*; but it puts him in mind of the Revolution.

That thoſe who do not own the Church, but declare her Schiſmatical, ſhould be concern'd *for her Danger*, and take more Care of her Safety than her own Biſhops, and Clergy, whoſe All depends upon her, and who muſt be Martyrs if ſhe falls.

That the Church muſt be in Danger, becauſe Men of Heat and Fire are diſmiſt, and this Danger muſt proceed from Men of Temper, and Moderation, that are come in their room.

That a Miniſtry diſmiſt, who in their Miniſtry never did one good thing for the Church, muſt be lamented, and the Church muſt be undone by a Miniſtry, that never did one thing againſt it.

That Perſecution can be at once declar'd inconſiſtent with the Chriſtian Religion, and yet nothing can ſave the Church but a Bill ſo plainly calculated for Perſecution, that the Party themſelves bluſht at the Preface, and left it out in the next Draft, that the Bill and the Introduction might be all of a Piece.

When the Sun has ſhone a little upon this Scheme of Affairs, and melted all the Paint, the Wax, the Polliſh, and Varniſh, what a horrid Skeleton will it appear,

A Lamb in danger of the Fold at the Breaſt of its Mother, and in kindneſs turn'd into the Field among the Wolves, and the Foxes, for its Preſervation.

Unhappy muſt the Church of *England* be, if thoſe Contradictions are requir'd to ſave her; the Miſery of the Church muſt be very great indeed, that ſhe muſt flie from her own *Proteſtant* Head, abandon her Dignify'd Guides, and the known Fathers of her Profeſſion, ſtigmatiz'd with the Infamy of Moderation, and put her into the Hands of her profeſs'd Enemies, to ſecure her from her known Friends.

To ſay the Biſhops ſhould Betray the Church, is ſuch a Vile and Inconſiſtent Banter, that it cannot but Deſerve the utmoſt Contempt; ſince if they Betray it to *Popery*, they muſt be Martyrs; if to *Phanaticks*, they muſt be Degraded and Reduced; ſo that this Whimſie of the Biſhops Betraying the Church, is like a Man that I knew ſo fond, and ſo addicted to rail at King *William*, tho' he himſelf was a Zealous *Whig*, that rather than not Accuſe the King of ſomething, he would have it, That his Majeſty was in the Plot to bring in King *James*.

But as this Subject will come before me again, I forbear to launch too far into theſe Matters at preſent.

" WHereas of meer Malice, and with " Deſign, among ſeveral other Miſ- " chiefs, to Load the Author of this with " Entangling Suits, and Exceſs of Charges, " ſeveral Actions have been Entred, and " Suits Commenced, ſome on Account of " Trifles not worth naming, ſome for Debts " after they are fairly Paid and Diſcharged, " and ſome in Names of Perſons unknown " to, and unconcerned with the Author, " who is made Defendant.

" And whereas three ſeveral Actions " ſtand Entred in the Compters in the City " againſt *D. D. F.* as follows.

" One for 1350———in the Name of " *Tho. Green*, in the *Poultry* Compter.

" One for 1100———in the Name of " *James Fry*, in *Woodſtreet* Compter.

" One for 350———in the Name of " *Tho. Griffin*, in my Lord Mayor's Court.

Theſe

" Theſe are to Deſire the ſeveral Attor-
" neys who have Entred the ſaid Actions,
" if any ſuch there be, to give Notice to
" the ſaid Offices of their Names; and if
" they are not Aſham'd of it, to let their
" Clients be known; for the ſaid *D. F.* De-
" clares, he knows not who they are, nor
" for what they Sue; and if any real Debt
" can be made appear, for which ſuch Acti-
" ons are Entred, he promiſes either to Pay
" them, or Voluntarily go to Priſon till he
" can Pay them.

Juſt Publiſh'd,

THE *Appendix* to the *Review*; Together with an *Index* of the Firſt Volume; which Compleats the ſaid Firſt Volume of the *Reviews*: And all thoſe Gentlemen, who have beſpoke of the Author, the ſaid Firſt Volume Entire, may have them Deliver'd, Bound up together with all the *Supplements*, at *J. Matthews*'s, or at the Publiſhers of the *Review*.

WHereas a Propoſal has been made by the Author of this Paper, for Subſcriptions to a Book in Folio, Entitled, *Jure Divino*; or, *A Satyr upon Tyranny and Paſſive Obedience*. To which, Abundance of Gentlemen having long ſince Subſcrib'd, and the Time ſeeming long for its coming out, ſome very Good Reaſons having obliged the Author to put a ſtop to it,

Theſe are to give Notice, That the ſaid Book is now in the Preſs, and ſhall go on to be Printed with all Expedition: And for the further Satisfaction of the Subſcribers, the Sheets may be ſeen every Day by any that pleaſe to give themſelves that Trouble, at Mr. *J. Matthews*, as they come out of the Preſs.

All thoſe Gentlemen, who have Collected Subſcriptions for this Book are Deſir'd to ſend in an Account of what Number they have taken, there being no more to be Printed, than ſhall be given Notice, as Subſcribed; and, if they pleaſe, to Pay the Subſcription Money to Mr. *Matthews* in *Pilkington Court*, *Little-Britain*, Receipts will be given there for it.

This Day is Publiſh'd,

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